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210622Z Mar 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000565

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/21/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [CE](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA WILL CONSIDER POINTS ON CUBA CHR  
RESOLUTION--BUT PROBABLY ABSTAIN

Classified By: Ambassador Jeffrey J. Lunstead for reason 1.4(D).

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador raised Cuba CHR Resolution with Foreign Secretary Palihakkara on March 21, making points in reftel.

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Palihakkara was interested in the "minimalist" approach US was taking this year, and asked several questions. Ambassador provided him a copy of the draft resolution.

[1](#)2. (C) Palihakkara said that the Cubans had recently sent a Special Envoy to Colombo on this subject, and had pressed hard for a "no" vote. The Cuban envoy had told the Sri Lankans that Cuba had lined up a number of new "no" votes, and only required one or two more to defeat the resolution. Palihakkara added that, as we knew, Sri Lanka usually abstained on the Cuba resolution, with the exception of one year--he thought 1998--when Sri Lanka had voted against. Palihakkara promised to study the issue.

[1](#)3. (C) COMMENT: Palihakkara's body language conveyed to us that Sri Lanka will probably stick with its abstention.  
LUNSTEAD